

George Croghan to George Washington, August 18, 1771, with Plat, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM COLONEL GEORGE CROGHAN.¹

FORT PITT Augst 18th. 1771

DEAR SIR

I Should have Wrote you long ago in answer to yrs. of 24th. Nobr. [?] butt ye. Spring Turnd. out Such Wether as prevented My Survair from Runing ye. out Lines of My Grant, on Capt. Craffords Reconsterg [?] however this Sumer I have had that Don & ye. Whole Layd. of in Townships,

I Now Inclose you a Draft of one Near the Mononongela Capt. Crafford has been Chieffly over ye. whole & Tells Me he Knows the Land will So that I shall Say Nothing About the quality Butt Refer you to him, if [you] Like the Tract you Shall have itt at five pounds Sterling per hundred Subject to the Kings Quitrents only as I promisd. you when hear²

My last Leters from England was ye. 5th of June wh. Leves No Doubt butt the New Charter Government wold be Confirmd, Confirmd. in Some Days after

By My Leters it apears that Nothing Retarded that Meter³ but the Diferancess att home between the parlament & City of London, as I hourly Expect Capt. Trent he having

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Determin'd to Sail in ye. July packett, on his A Rival I shall Know whether I yett Stand a Shair in ye. New Colony or Nott, and Shall Write you on that Subject, if I Stand a Shair I will Make you a proposial

If itt be in My power to Serve Capt. Crafford in the New Colony you May be AShurd, I will and am prety Certain there will be a Number of persons Wanting—

I am Sir with Great Respect your Most Humble. Servant GEO: CROGHAN

¹ George Croghan, who was perhaps one of America's most popular Indian agents, was born in Ireland. He settled in Pennsylvania, and in 1746 began trading with the western tribes of Indians, whose language he familiarized himself with, and over whom he gained an influence that he ever afterwards retained. In 1756 Sir William Johnson made him deputy Indian agent, and in 1763 sent him to England to confer with the ministry on the question of the Indian boundary line. In 1766 he made a settlement on the Allegany four miles from Fort Pitt. Colonel Croghan served as captain of guides and scouts through the Braddock campaign, and up to the beginning of the Revolution performed many important services in reconciling the Indians to British rule and invasion. He died in Philadelphia, August, 1782.

² An entry of October 22 in Washington's journal of his tour to the Ohio in 1770 records this promise of Colonel Croghan's: "All the land between this Creek & the Monongahela & for 25 Miles back, is claimd by Colo. Croghan under a purchase from the Indians (and which Sale he says, is confirmd by his Majesty). On this Creek where the Branches thereof interlock with the Waters of Shirtees Creek, there is, according to Colo. Croghan's Acc. a body of fine Rich level Land—this Tract he wants to sell, & offers it a £5 Sterg. pr. hundd. with an exemption of Quitrents for 20 years; after which, to be subject to the payment of 4/2 Sterg. pr. Hund; provided he can sell it in 20,000 Acre Lots. Note the unsettled state of the Country renders any purchase dangerous"—

³ Measure.